

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 KABUL 01022 01 OF 02 100923Z

10

ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-02 SS-15 SP-02 MMO-01

/039 W

----- 001531

P R 100609Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6149

INFO USIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 KABUL 1022

FOR CU: DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY HITCHOCK

USIA FOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR NALLE

STATE ALSO FOR NEA

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AF, OEXC

SUBJECT: KABUL CU ALLOCATION

REFS: A. STATE 27676, B. KABUL 842, C. STATE 16571,

D. 75 STATE 296186, E. 75 KABUL 8088

1. BEFORE ADDRESSING THE SUBSTANCE OF YOUR PROMPT
RESPONSE, I WANT TO UNDERLINE FOR YOU THE FACT THAT KABUL
842 REPRESENTED MY PERSONAL CONCERNS ABOUT THE DRACONIAN
CUTS FORESEEN FOR THE FY 1977 AFGHAN CULTURAL EXCHANGE
PROGRAM ON TOP OF THE CUTS ALREADY ANNOUNCED IN REF C
FOR FY 1976. FURTHERMORE, THE FACT THAT PAO VERNER
AND THE WHOLE COUNTRY TEAM ARE MEETING REGULARLY AND
INTENSIVELY TO TAKE STEPS DESCRIBED LATER IN THIS
MESSAGE SHOULD UNDERLINE FOR YOU AND JOHN RICHARDSON
HOW SERIOUSLY I VIEW THIS SITUATION. THIS NOT QUOTE
AN AFAMEC MATTER END QUOTE. IT IS NOT RPT NOT ONLY
A CU MATTER, BUT SOMETHING WHICH AFFECTS AFGHAN
PERCEPTIONS OF OUR INTEREST IN AFGHANISTAN AND IS
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 KABUL 01022 01 OF 02 100923Z

THEREFORE A SUBJECT OF SUBSTANTIAL POLICY IMPORT.

2. CONCERNING "AFAMEC'S PERFORMANCE WITH REGARD TO FY 76 STUDENT GRANT COMPETITIONS" (STATE 296186, PARA 5), I WISH TO GO ON RECORD AS DEFENDING ITS OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE IN THE LIGHT OF GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN (GOA) PRESSURES, ADMINISTRATIVE DEADLINES AND THE NECESSITY OF OPERATING WITHOUT ANY INDICATIONS FROM THE BUREAU AS TO CHANGES IN THE NUMBER OF AVAILABLE GRANTS. TO AMPLIFY WHAT I WROTE IN KABUL 8088, PARAS 3 AND 5, AFAMEC IS THE ONLY FOREIGN ORGANIZATION OPERATING IN AFGHANISTAN HAVING THE PRIVILEGE OF SELECTING ITS OWN GRANTEES THROUGH OPEN COMPETITION. ALL OTHERS MUST SUBMIT TO GOA SELECTION. AFAMEC, USING COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS, IS ALLOWED TO SELECT GRANTEES OF THE HIGHEST QUALITY, WITHOUT CONSIDERATIONS OF POLITICAL OR FAMILY CONNECTIONS. THE DEPTJXUST UNDERSTAND THAT IN RETURN FOR THIS EXCEPTIONAL ADVANTAGE, AFAMEC MUST AT LEAST ANNOUNCE THE NUMBER OF GRANTS AVAILABLE PRIOR TO THE COMPETITION. FOR AT LEAST THE PAST THREE YEARS, AFAMEC'S PROCEDURE HAS BEEN TO RECRUIT IN JUNE (IN ORDER TO MEET ETS TESTING DEADLINES AND, THEREFORE, IIE AND EWC DEADLINES) ON THE BASIS OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR'S PRELIMINARY ALLOCATION -- AND THIS WAS ALWAYS DONE WITH THE BUREAU'S FULL CONCURRENCE. FOR THE RECORD: AFAMEC RECEIVED ITS FY 75 FINAL ALLOCATION FOUR MONTHS AFTER THE FY 76 SELECTION WAS MADE AND NECESSARILY HAD TO USE THE FY 75 ALLOCATION AS A BASIS FOR THE EIGHT STUDENT GRANTS RECRUITED; AND UNTIL TWO MONTHS AFTER AFAMEC'S SELECTION (I.E., WHEN IT RECEIVED THE ILLUSTRATIVE ALLOCATION OF SEPTEMBER 8, 1975, IT DID NOT KNOW THE PROCEDURES AND NUMBERS HAD CHANGED.

3. IN MY VIEW, AFAMEC (AND THE USIS CULTURAL AFFAIRS OFFICE) HAVE ACTED RESPONSIBLY AND IN GOOD FAITH IN THIS MATTER. WE HOPE THE EXPLANATION GIVEN IN PARAS 3 AND 5 OF KABUL 8088 AND THIS FURTHER DETAILED EXPLANATION LAYS TO REST THE "BUREAU'S REGRET THAT AFAMEC FELT IMPELLED TO PROCEED IN THE MANNER IT DID" (PARA 5, STATE 296186) AND THE IMPLIED CRITICISM OF "AFAMEC'S PERFORMANCE WITH REGARD TO FY 76 STUDENT GRANT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 KABUL 01022 01 OF 02 100923Z

COMPETITION" (PARA 1, STATE 27676).

4. I AM NOT PREPARED TO SEE THE PROCEDURES OF SELECTION CHANGE TO THE EXTENT OF ENDANGERING THE COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION SYSTEM WITH ITS STRESS ON EXCELLENCE. IN A SOCIETY WHERE FAMILY AND POLITICAL CONNECTIONS ARE (UNFORTUNATELY) USUALLY THE DETERMINING FACTORS IN SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS, AFAMEC'S UNIQUE POSITION

MUST BE STRICTLY PROTECTED. TO MEET STATESIDE DEAD-LINES, THE EXAMINATIONS MUST TAKE PLACE BEFORE THE FINAL ALLOCATIONS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED. THEREFORE, IN THE FUTURE, AFAMEC WILL ANNOUNCE A LIMSTED NUMBER OF GRANTS AS AVAILABLE, IDENTIFY PRINCIPLES FOR THEM AS WELL AS A LARGER NUMBER OF ALTERNATES. OUR HOPE WILL BE THAT WHEN TSE BUDGETARY SITUATION IS CLARIFIED, ADDITIONAL GRANTS WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE AND CAN THEN BE AWARDED TO ALREADY IDENTIFIED CANDIDATES. I BELIEVE SUCH A PROCEDURE SHOULD MEET THE BUREAU'S OBJECTIONS CONCERNING AFAMEC'S RECRUITING LEAD TIME.

5. WE ARE CONSIDERING ALL POSSIBLE OPTIONS THAT MIGHT BE AVAILABLE TO US IN THE HOPE OF INSURING BEST POSSIBLE FUNDING ON THE PROGRAM SIDE OF THE EXCHANGE BUDGET. WHAT WE ARE STUDYING IS THE POSSIBILITY OF ELIMINATING THE POSITION OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND MOVING AFAMEC INTO THE USIS COMPOUND UNDER THE DIRECT SUPERVISION OF AN AMERICAN USIS OFFICER, THUS SAVING SALARY AND SUPPORT COSTS FOR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND RENTAL AND UTILITY EXPENSES ON THE SEPARATE BUILDING. WE HAVE CONSIDERED THE DRAWBACKS OF SUCH A DRASTIC CHANGE. THEY INCLUDE A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN THE WORKLOAD OF THE AMERICAN USIS STAFF AND A PSYCHOLOGICALLY AND PERHAPS POLITICALLY DAMAGING BLOW TO THE AFGHAN PERCEPTION OF AFAMEC AS A TRULY BINATIONAL,

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 KABUL 01022 02 OF 02 100906Z

20

ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 IGA-02 AID-05 MMO-01

/039 W

----- 001450

P R 100609Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6155

INFO USIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 KABUL 1022

SEMI-AUTONOMOUS ORGANIZATION. I AM WILLING TO MAKE THIS CHANGE AND ACCEPT THE RISKS ONLY RPT ONLY IF WE HAVE YOUR ASSURANCES THAT MONIES THUS SAVED WOULD NOT BE WITHDRAWN FROM OUR PROGRAM. THE FORMULATION IN STATE 27676 THAT THE MONIES WOULD "BE ASSIGNED -- FOR PLANNING REPEAT PLANNING -- TO PROGRAM CATEGORIES" IS NOT SUFFICIENT ASSURANCE TO OUR PRESENT NEEDS. WE DARE NOT TAKE THE POLITICAL RISK OF SUCH A SEVERE INSTITUTIONAL CHANGE WITHOUT THE ASSURANCE THAT THE CHANGE WILL BE BALANCED BY ADDITIONAL PROGRAM RESOURCES. IN FACT, THAT IS THE ONLY WAY IN WHICH WE BELIEVE WE COULD EXPLAIN THE CHANGE TO THE AFGHANS. I CANNOT EMPHASIZE STRONGLY ENOUGH THAT THE ONLY REASON WE FEEL FORCED TO CONTEMPLATE THIS CHANGE IS BECAUSE WE ARE DESPERATELY TRYING TO SAVE THS SUBSTANCE OF A CU PROGRAM HERE IN THE LIGHT OF THE SEVERE CUTS YOU APPARENTLY FEEL PRESSED TO CONSIDER.

6. AS YOU ARE AWARE, AFAMEC HAS BEEN RECRUITING FOR A REPLACEMENT FOR THE CURRENT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. SEVERAL FIRST-RATE CANDIDATES HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED. IN EACH CASE, THESE CANDIDATES NEED AN ANSWER FROM AFAMEC SO THEY CAN MAKE ALTERNATE PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR IF A FIRM JOB OFFER IS NOT FORTHCOMING. IT IS ALSO IMPERATIVE THAT IF MAJOR CHANGES ARE MADE IN THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF AFAMEC, AS MUCH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 KABUL 01022 02 OF 02 100906Z

TIME AS POSSIBLE BE PROVIDED DURING THE INCUMBENCY OF THE CURRENT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO INSURE AS SMOOTH A TRANSITION AS POSSIBLE. FINALLY, IF CHANGES OF THIS DIMENSION ARE TO TAKE PLACE, WE NEED TIME TO ADVISE AND REASSURE CONCERNED AFGHANS AND THUS MINIMIZE THE POLITICAL COSTS.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: WE NEED A COMMITMENT THAT IF ADMINISTRATIVE SAVINGS ARE POSSIBLE, THE RESOURCES WILL NOT BE LOST.

8. WE WILL, OF COURSE, WELCOME ANY FURTHER COMMENT FROM STATE/USIA PRIOR TO VERNER'S CONSULTATIONS IN THE DEPARTMENT IN EARLY MARCH.
ELIOT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 FEB 1976
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976KABUL01022
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760050-0179
From: KABUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760265/aaaaceon.tel
Line Count: 217
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 27676, 76 KABUL 842, 76 STATE 16571
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUN 2004 by buchant0>; APPROVED <03 JUN 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KABUL CU ALLOCATION
TAGS: OEXC, AF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006